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of inestimable value by bringing the investigators of the continent into personal contact with one another. Every scientific man has not only new facts to present, but also theories and hypotheses which may not be sufficiently complete, or justified by positive knowledge, to be put into print, yet it is precisely these vague ideas which are the most valuable stimulants of discovery, because they are the store from which new and sound ideas can be selected. By no other process can this selection be rendered so efficient as by personal discussion with others whose studies are in the same direction. If the suggested meeting be actually held, it will certainly prove as profitable as delightful. There is no room to doubt that on our part we would be lavish of pains to make the meeting successful, and we think our reputation for hospitality is a guarantee that our guests will have a pleasant as well as a profitable visit.

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RECENT LITERATURE.

Genth and Kerr's Minerals of North Carolina.[1]—It is perhaps not generally known to the readers of this journal, that the State of North Carolina has nominally carried on a geological survey continuously for a greater number of years than any other of the United States. The bill under which the present State geologist was appointed, and in substance has carried on his survey, was enacted during the legislative session of 1851–52. Professor Ebenezer Emmons was appointed State geologist in 1852, which office he held until his death, in 1863. His son Dr. E. Emmons, Jr., was then nominated, while the present incumbent, Professor W. C. Kerr, was appointed in 1864. It is of course obvious that little or no geological work proper was done or could have been done from 1860 to 1866. It is not our purpose here to refer to the various reports of Professors Emmons and Kerr, published at different times during the progress of the survey, but to call attention to the advance chapter of the report now being published.

Professor Kerr has been exceedingly fortunate in this and preceding publications, in being able to secure the assistance of one who is *facile princeps* of chemical mineralogists in America.

Of the economically important minerals found in North Carolina in sufficient abundance to be subject to exploitation we may mention gold, which has been found in the gravel deposits, and in the quartz veins of the granitic, gneissic, and dioritic rocks and various slates of the country. It is generally alloyed with silver and occurs associated with limonite, pyrite, chalcopyrite, galenite, sphalerite, tetradymite, arsenopyrite, and rarely with altaite and nagyagite. The present writer remembers having seen a very beautiful specimen of calcite veinstone well filled with sheet gold, said to have come from North Carolina. The occurrence of gold in calcite veins is very rare, but as the possessors of this specimen supposed the veinstone was quartz, such associations may not be as rare as they are now regarded. We hope that Professor Kerr will endeavor to ascertain if such veins are to be found in the State.

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[1] *The Minerals and Mineral Localities of North Carolina*, being Chapter I of the Second Volume of the Geology of North Carolina. By Professors F. A. Genth and W. C. Kerr, Raleigh, 1881.

Galenite, sometimes argentiferous, exists in considerable quantity. Chalcopyrite is very abundant and is the only copper ore occurring in sufficient quantity to be relied upon in mining. Some of the copper mines, as for instance the Ore Knob, in Ashe county, are quite well known throughout the country.

Corundum, in association with the peridotite of North Carolina, is quite abundant. It occurs massive in beds from 10 to 14 feet thick, associated with prochlorite, also in hexagonal pyramids, varying from colorless to yellow, deep red, and rarely green shades. It has been mined to some extent, and since, for certain purposes in the arts, the crushed corundum is more valuable than the imported emery, it is to be hoped that the industry will flourish.

Hematite and magnetite are abundant and valuable, while chromite is quite common in connection with the peridotite.

The muscovite mica found in North Carolina has been quite extensively mined since 1868, and is celebrated throughout the United States. According to Professor Kerr, it occurs in eruptive (intrusive) granite dikes in gneisses and mica schists. We would suggest that the term *dike* be used instead of *vein* when speaking of such intrusive forms. We are aware that Professor Dana sanctions the use of the term *vein* in this way, *i. e.* for narrow dikes, but it seems to us that less confusion would result if the word *vein* was only used for the non-eruptive veins. A valuable paper by Professor Kerr on these "mica veins," as he calls them, can be found in the recently published volume of the Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers (1880, VIII, 457–462).

Of minerals whose occurrence is of more especial interest to mineralogists than to the economic geologist, either from their rarity in the State or uselessness in the arts at present, we may mention platinum, found in grains in the gold bearing sands, palladium and the diamond. The latter mineral has been repeatedly found in the State in the gold bearing gravels derived from the gneissic rocks, but never in the itacolumite or its débris. Bismuthinite, tetradymite, argentite, altaite, bornite, chalcocite, barnhardtite, and nagyagite are found, the latter being exceedingly rare, having heretofore only been observed in Hungary.

Again, we may call attention to the presence in the State of covellite, cerargyrite, cuprite, melaconite, spinel in its varieties pleonaste, hercynite, and picotite; gahnite, uraninite, rutile, in beautiful crystals, octahedrite, brookite in the gold sands, braunite, hausmannite, diaspore, senarmontite or valentintite, bismite, molybdite, enstatite, spodumene, arfvedsonite, beryl abundant and often in beautiful forms, zircon, vesuvianite, allanite, zoisite (thulite), fibrolite, cyanite, topaz of the variety pycnite, euclase, titanite, chrysocolla, pyrophyllite, glauconite, genthite, margarodite, paragonite, culsageeite, kerrite, maconite, willcoxite, margarite, dudleyite, uranotil, uranochre, zippeite, hatchettolite, tantalite, columbite, yttrotantalite, samarskite, euxenite, æschynite, rutherfordite, fergusonite, rogersite, xenotime, pyromorphite in variously colored handsome crystals, monazite, vivianite, olivenite, pseudomalachite, lazulite, scorodite, wavellite, pharmacosiderite, dufrenite, phosphuranylite, autunite, wolframite, scheelite, cuproscheelite, stolzite, anglesite, crocoite, montanite, rhodochrosite, cerussite, azurite and succinite.

It will be seen from the above lengthy list that North Carolina is exceedingly rich in rare minerals; the whole number of minerals now found reaching to 178 species, said to be a greater number than has been observed in any other of the United States. While this indicates great industry and care on the part of the State geologist, we can but think that so many being known is largely due to the great knowledge of rare minerals possessed by Dr. Genth and his skill in detecting them.

The remaining chapters of the volume will be looked for with interest, and we hope that North Carolina will continue the good work.

We may remark, in conclusion, that it would be a great advantage to those States which cannot afford the expense of an elaborate survey, and a saving to their citizens, if they would employ some competent, honest, economic geologist, either part or all of the time, to look after the development of the various mining industries, and place on record such geological facts as he may be able to ascertain. Such a survey as that of Professor Kerr's is not expensive, and is productive of great good in developing the mineral wealth of and in attracting capital to the State, as well as in preventing the foolish and ignorant expenditure of mony on worthless property. Brilliant examples of this last have been shown in some of the Northern States during the past few years, which might have been saved if there had been some *competent* State geologist, or commissioner of mining in them.—*M. E. W.*

MARTIN'S HUMAN BODY.[1]—This work is in the mode of treatment of the subject intermediate between the physiologies of Dalton and of Foster, with valuable features of its own. It gives sufficient information concerning the anatomy of the human body to enable the student to appreciate how that body performs its various

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[1] *The Human Body.*—An account of its structure and activities and the conditions of its healthy workings. By H. Newell Martin, D.Sc., Professor of Biology in the Johns Hopkins University, etc. American Science Series. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1881. 12mo, pp. 621, 34. $2.75.